

**Berkshire Conservation District
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 4, 2021, 5:00pm**

1. Call to order at 5:02 and Determination of Quorum
Present: Adam Galambos (Chair), Ron Kujawski (Vice Chair), Ned Kirchner
District Administrator: Cynthia Grippaldi

2. Public Comment Period (no public attendees or comments)

3. NRCS Reporting and Comments
Michelle Cozine Acting district conservationist for region represented NRCS for this meeting. A decision has been made for the new district conservationist to replace Gary but the name is not revealed yet. Michelle worked for MACD 5 years then RCS in Hadley for 8 years. She trained with Rita Thibideau before Gary.
She presented forms for local working group & questionnaire to develop ranking questions for 2022 priorities. The board discussed filling out the documents individually and collaborate at next meeting. Perhaps at our September board meeting we can discuss and decide on response. She suggested we share the survey with Berk farmers. There will be a webinar in September to gain input from community. MA NRCS program staff managed allocation of \$10 million for various programs. \$700,000 in Berkshire County so far for the Conservation Stewardship Program, EQUIP, etc. Applications are ranked and selected by certain criteria. CARP (Coronavirus Ag Relief Program) pays up to 10% additional funds for any practices installed in 2021. Many farmers in the Pioneer Valley are adopting no-till practices.
As of 7am Berkshire County went into moderate COVID transmission rate. Berk County office and the entire building now requires masks & staff limited to 2 people at a time. Will add BCD to occupancy schedule. Limit of 2 hours/day okay.
USDA NRCS is working more with urban community gardens.

4. Secretary's Report – Submitted by Donna Kittredge
 - a. Review and approval of June 10 Monthly Meeting Minutes. Ned moved to accept the minutes and Ron seconded

5. Treasurer's Report – Submitted by David Ellis
 - a. Review and approval of June 2021 Treasurer's Report Submitted July 11. Discussion and approval tabled until next month's meeting when David is present

6. District Supervisors
 - a. Update on application process from Ned/Adam on BCD supervisor access to building. Ned & Adam discussed moving access from Ned to Adam. Adam will pursue.

7. Program Status

a. No-Till Program

I. Past month review

Total acreage 218 so far this year. The cracked rim on equipment to be replaced. Ned wants to see damaged rim. We need to ensure that our asset is properly maintained during intervals and preventative maintenance is done. Adam wants us to work with Mike to try for more communication. He needs to be present for meetings.

II. Next month action items

Ask Mike if another time of day would work better for him to attend meetings. Adam, Ned and Cynthia will discuss further and propose time to meet in person with Mike to check the equipment.

b. Nutrient Management Program

I. Past month review

II. Next month action items

Cynthia is drafting a letter for conservation commissions and golf courses regarding nutrient management regs and best practices. Adam has a meeting with Tom Anderson tomorrow on Zoom regarding unspent funds obligated to districts. BCD has kept up with spending allocated funds. He also will ask if supervisors can be compensated for working on program initiatives. Adam can provide a presentation on GIS and nutrient management guidelines. We will continue to use our YouTube account for webinars since in-person presentations are going to be limited again... ☹

c. Hinsdale Pollinator Grant Program

I. Past month review

Hinsdale project is complete, final grant report was sent to NEGREF. All plants installed, sign at Library. Donna and Cynthia weeded the gardens last Saturday.

II. Next month action items

Donna and Cynthia attended a native pollinator tour in Monterey. It was very inspiring and the town is very interested in becoming a pollinator-friendly community.

d. FY22 Pollinator and Native Plant Initiative

I. Past month review

II. Next month action items

Coordinator will need to be identified and plants will need to be purchased this fall to be available for spring/early summer. Adam will ask Tom regarding spending grant funds before grant is awarded. Planning meetings need to start soon regardless.

Change title to new grant application name.

8. Program Administrator Update

9. New Business

a. Annual Meeting

Most likely will not be in-person. Plan for a fall meeting. Adam suggests highlighting the efforts and sacrifices that the supervisors make. Submit ideas for a keynote speaker. Annual report

needs to be crafted. Ned recommends during the first week in November (Nov. 3?) and include an NRCS presentation. Keep up with any supervisor elections that need to happen.

10. Comments and Announcements - none

11. Adjournment at 6:49 Moved by Ron seconded by Ned